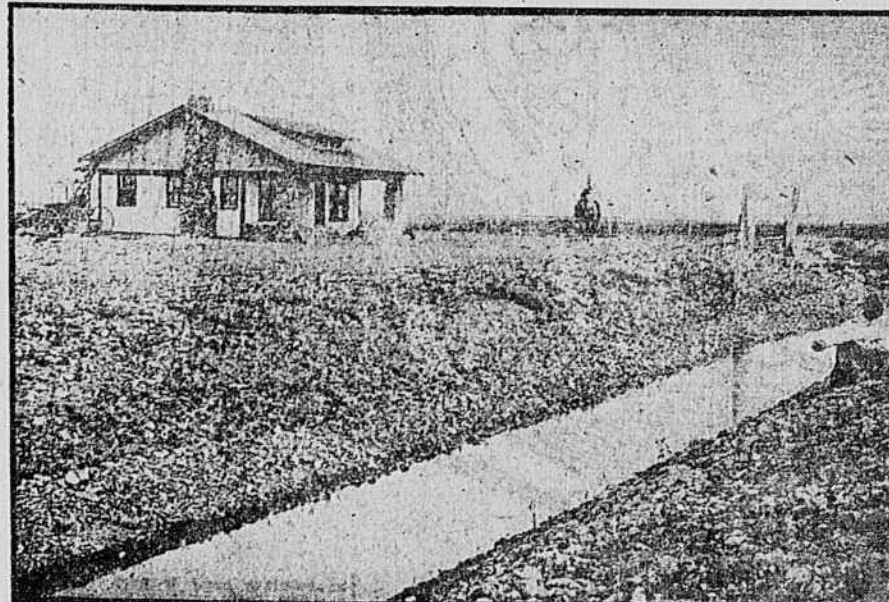


Settling the Desert---How One Million Homes Will Be Established on New Oases of Arid West



UNCLE SAM IS FLOODING THE DESERTS.

CORN CROP OF AN IDAHO OASIS.
The first year's yield was sixty bushels per acre.

A SETTLER'S HOME NEAR THE SHOSHONE DAM.



A NEW SCHOOLHOUSE OF THE MINIDOKA PROJECT.

Pioneers Who Are Making Good. A Fortune in Dill Pickles. Fruit Lands Worth a Thousand Dollars an Acre—Big Crops of Alfalfa, and Money in Ostriches and Dates—How a Washington Stenographer Made \$14,000—Farms and How to Get Them—A Look at the Oases Communities—Their New Cities and Towns—Something About the Banks, Churches and Schools—Live Information About the Lands of the Reclamation Service Now Being Opened.

BY FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Washington, D. C. Three years ago he was a stenographer in the Post-Office Department at Washington. He was getting \$1,200 a year and he had one month's annual vacation. He had saved \$1,500 by skimping, and could see but little light for the future. Then he went West on his annual leave and was present at the opening of some government irrigated lands at Huntley, in Northern Montana. He dropped into the line of homeseekers and drew an allotment of forty-six acres, with the right to pay for it in ten-year installments.

He resigned his Washington job, and using his savings, built himself a home. He then cleared thirty-five acres of sagebrush and sowed it to oats and wheat. He set out an apple orchard and between the rows put in 4,000 strawberry plants and some currants, grapes and blackberries. His oats produced sixty-two bushels per acre and the wheat thirty bushels. The apple trees grew. The next year he planted sugar beets on thirty-one acres of this land and the crop therefrom brought in \$3,100. The orchard is rapidly growing and the man already estimates himself worth at least \$10,000.

That is the story of one man's experience on the irrigated tracts of the reclamation service which Uncle Sam is now parceling out to his children. He has already sold thousands of acres on cash installments and he has water enough in the big reservoirs lately built to feed 25,000 farms of forty acres each. This land has all been reclaimed from the desert, and it is only the beginning. It is the first fruits of the reclamation service, which has already spent \$60,000,000 in dams, reservoirs and canals. A million acres are now under water, and within the next generation or so more than a million homes will have been added to those of our country.

Some of Uncle Sam's Settlers. Before I tell you how such farms may be gotten I want to give some stories about the letters from Uncle Sam's pioneers. The Reclamation Bureau at

Washington has a large correspondence from those who have taken such tracts. It publishes the value of the land and tells what may be made from them. Take the fruit cases of the Pacific northwest. If the information did not come from the government I should not venture to quote it, for the prices seem to be out of all reason. Irrigated fruit lands owned by individuals right near some of the government tracts sell for from \$100 to \$2,000 per acre, and some of the sage brush nearby is bringing \$50 per acre and upward. This is in the Yakima Valley and others of that region where dams can be made at the outlets of mountain lakes, which will eventually give 930,000 acre feet. There is enough water there to redeem a half million acres, and there are four or five schemes planned for the Yakima Valley alone. There are excellent orchard lands on nearly all of the projects, and the men who have taken up holdings are rapidly growing in wealth.

Engineer Blanchard, of the reclamation service, tells one of a man named Silver who planted ten acres of alfalfa near Yakima about six years ago. He netted \$2,700 last year from his fruit and the vegetables which he raised between the rows. In the same region J. Shadbolt, a dry goods merchant from Montana, made \$16,000 from the fruit raised on forty-one acres. In 1907 the same orchard yielded a gross of \$29,000 and a net of \$20,000, and in the three years which the man has been fruit raising he has netted \$39,000, or more than \$13,000 a year.

The government reports that full-bearing orchards produce crops of from \$300 to \$1,200 per acre, and that \$300 is less than the average if the trees are well kept. The lands that have been redeemed there are being largely planted to fruit, and millions of trees have been set out in the valley during the last season or so.

Robert McCormick, who was a lumberman in Minnesota, came to this valley ten years ago with 75 cents in his pocket. He worked for a time as a teamster, and with his savings made his first payment on twenty-five acres of the government project. The land was then covered with sage brush. Today it is all in crops and is paying him \$2,000 a year above all his expenses. Last fall he picked seven or eight hundred boxes of apples from a little over an acre, making a yield of about \$800 for that amount of ground. A Wisconsin man the same year sold \$3,700 worth of apples from nine acres of trees.

A Voice From Montana. Here are some letters from Huntley, Mont., where the irrigation projects embrace a total of 29,000 acres. They are not all completed, but the water has been put on large tracts, and several good sized towns have gone up. What averages thirty bushels to the acre, barley from fifty to seventy bushels and oats from ninety to one hundred bushels. The oats sell for 90 cents a hundred pounds, and good seed oats bring as much as \$2. There is a grazing country about, and alfalfa is worth \$5 a ton in the stack. It yields

from five to seven tons an acre from baby buggy. He now has four boys of grapes can be raised, bringing a profit of \$150 an acre, or lettuce and peas will net \$400 per acre, while Bermuda onions are yielding 35,000 pounds to the acre and readily selling for 2 cents a pound.

One of the Hermiston settlers says that he is raising 600 bushels of onions per acre without fertilization and crops as large. This is from the Umatilla project, where water is now available for eleven or twelve thousand acres and where the first settlements were made about four years ago. The locality has excellent banks and schools. Hermiston has a \$5,000 concrete school building, with 160 pupils. There are newspapers, churches and fraternal lodges.

Ostriches and Dates. Do you want to raise ostriches, figs and dates? There are plenty of chances to do so on the lands which Uncle Sam now offers in Southern Arizona and New Mexico. The Roosevelt Dam will open up 240,000 acres which will grow alfalfa, upon which ostriches will thrive. It is the same with the Yuma project, farther South, and so also of the irrigation schemes of Southern New Mexico. In these regions the country is practically frostless, and oranges, lemons, grapefruit and olives can be easily grown. The lands lie several hundred feet above sea level and the temperature ranges from 20 to 118 degrees above zero.

In some of the tracts the units are as low as ten acres, which is found to be plenty, as crops can be raised all the year round. Irrigated lands bring from \$50 to \$150 per acre, the government tracts varying in cost, according to the expense involved in each project. The government report from Carlsbad, N. M., states that the finest

land is now being reclaimed from the desert, and it is only the beginning. It is the first fruits of the reclamation service, which has already spent \$60,000,000 in dams, reservoirs and canals. A million acres are now under water, and within the next generation or so more than a million homes will have been added to those of our country.

Not a Bad Place for Children. A number of these letters show how the babies thrive. There is one from Hermiston, Ore., written by E. P. Dood, saying that his neighbor, Bushnell, had come there three years ago and later with a pair of twins in a double

responsible party to whom they could make their offer. The result of this our first interview was that I at once telegraphed to the president of the canal, Colonel Charles S. Carrington, requesting him to come to Baltimore. He, a gentleman of the highest possible character, had devoted all of the years since the war to the vain effort to secure the building of the extension of the canal, but had met with no success whatever. I knew that he at last was forced to despair of accomplishing his object, and could easily imagine with what joy he would welcome a proposition like this. He arrived most promptly, and a conference was immediately had between us three, at which the first agreement was that nothing of what we were contemplating should transpire outside of ourselves. We then the whole matter, and finally Colonel Carrington returned to Richmond with the understanding that he was to get the Legislature to pass a bill appointing a committee of twelve of the best citizens of the State, and empowering them to make a sale of the canal on the best terms they could. To show what sort of men we wanted on the committee, I will mention that I named "Rooney" Lee as one of them, and it was agreed that as nearly as possible the members should be of the standard thus laid down. Colonel Carrington went before the Legislature and reported progress to us, the other two who were in possession of the facts of the case. It was not long before a bill was passed by one of the houses appointing the committee and conferring the power, and I recall the profound satisfaction with which I learned of this and the joy I felt in thinking how much this

One of Virginia's Lost Opportunities

BY AFTON.

meant to my dear old State. We two, who had met almost daily in Baltimore and talked over the progress of events, were most hopeful of ultimate success, when the final blow came to us in the announcement made by Colonel Carrington that the other house in dealing with the bill had tacked on a proviso that the action of the Legislature should be referred back to session nearly over, and this meant, of course, a reference to the body which was to succeed it. It was too late to try to undo what had been done, and it is to be apprehended that some adverse interest had been at work, and that what had been sought to be done was not to be done.

When we consider that this canal, which cost Virginia since \$15,000,000, was ultimately given away, and that the railroad built on it was turned over at a sacrifice to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, we must acknowledge, even disregarding what the completion of the canal would have meant to Virginia, that this was a great loss of opportunity.

The above is a simple, but absolutely correct, statement of an actual occurrence. I have known them to be thoroughly unbusinesslike. When we consider that this canal, which cost Virginia since \$15,000,000, was ultimately given away, and that the railroad built on it was turned over at a sacrifice to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, we must acknowledge, even disregarding what the completion of the canal would have meant to Virginia, that this was a great loss of opportunity.

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Natural shades; all sizes; value \$25.00. **9.98**

Waists

Lawns, Silks, Marquisettes. Value \$3.00, **98c**; Value \$5.00, **1.98**; Value \$7.00, **2.98**

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Panamas, Mixtures, Voiles. Value \$6.00, **2.98**; Value \$8.00, **3.98**; Value \$10.00, **4.98**

The bulk of our stock has been sacrificed regardless of cost or value.

about \$30 per acre, and in nearly every project, as soon as the water is on the land, it is worth \$100 and upward per acre. In the case of bearing orchards as I have said, it may sell for more.

Our Oases Communities.

The population of these oases promises to be the highest type of American method and womanhood. The conditions are almost Utopian. Each settlement will be one of well-to-do farmers, who are carrying on intensive cultivation and making comfortable incomes, with less work than is possible in any other part of the country. The farms, being small, are close together, and the people have a community of interests which leads to co-operation and social organization. They will market their fruits and crops in common, and will form combinations to get the best prices and to raise the best products. This is already being done in the fruit regions. There will also be financial combinations of the settlers to establish factories in their various communities.

Libraries and Schools.

The schools which have already been started upon these projects are far above the average of those in the country districts in other parts of the United States. In most cases they compare with the schools of the cities. Most of the oases have what is known as centralized graded schools, to which the children are brought in carriages that go daily from farm to farm and collect their great numbers in selecting the teachers, and in school education may be gotten without leaving the farm.

Among the interesting features of these schools are the gardens and little farms connected with them. The children learn practical agriculture by raising their own fruits and grains, being given for the best work. The teaching is all in the spirit of the farm, and its aim is to make the children love the farm and to have them stay on it. In the past the country schools have been managed by city teachers, who have taught the children to despise agriculture and tried to make them leave the farms for the city.

As to the schools already established on the project at Carlsbad, N. M., 500 children are enrolled. The graded school building is of brick, situated in a large park, and the town is recently completed. A \$1,500 high school, Belle Fourche, in South Dakota, has two graded schools and a high school, while in Sturgis there is a public graded school with a large attendance. Nearby are the University of South Dakota, the State School of Mines and a State Normal School. In Huntley, in Northern Montana, there are excellent educational facilities, and the same is true of the other projects of the Lower Yellowstone Valley. The pupils are taught for nine months in each year, and the State course of study provides for the teaching of agriculture in the four highest grades.

In Yakima the best of common school facilities are to be found in every part of the irrigated regions. There are graded schools and high schools at Ellensburg, Sunnyside and North Yakima, and at the latter place, in addition to the public schools, there are a business college, school of music and art and a catholic academy for girls. In all of these projects nine months of school is the rule.

Towns of the Oases.

Nearly every one of these reclamation projects has a town, which are rapidly springing into being. In the Yakima Valley they are situated on the government lands and in the country adjoining. North Yakima has over 12,000 people, Sunnyside has 1,500, Ellensburg 5,200 and Prosser 2,000. In addition to this there are a number of other towns and villages. Most of these places have graded

streets bordered with trees kept alive by irrigation. They have gas and electric lights and good telephone systems. They publish newspapers. North Yakima has a public library which cost \$50,000, and the government is soon to erect a Federal building there at a cost of a quarter of a million.

The chief town in the Umatilla project is Hermiston, which already has 600 people, including a large number of farmers who live there and drive to and from their farms. The place has several big business blocks, two lumber yards, an \$8,000 public school building, and there are in the county twelve banks, with total deposits of upward of \$4,000,000. Hermiston has two banks.

On the Klamath Irrigation project the chief town is Klamath Falls, though there are other settlements which are rapidly growing. Klamath Falls has four banks, two newspapers, a high school building which cost \$40,000 and a number of society lodges. The cost of redemption is over \$8,000,000 on the average \$30 per acre and the maintenance charge 75 cents per acre each year.

Some of the irrigation projects of Idaho are tributary to Boise, the capital of the State, a town which has municipal improvements equal to those of the finest residence cities of the West. There are some small towns on the projects themselves, and the educational, financial and social conditions are among the best in the country. As to Boise, it has six banks, with deposits of over \$10,000,000, and school buildings which represent property value of more than \$400,000. Its high schools are among the best in the country, the graduates being accredited to all colleges that admit students upon credentials.

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Buena Vista Social News.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Buena Vista, Va., August 12.—During the past week a number of entertainments have been given in honor of visiting women. Thursday afternoon Mrs. W. T. Paxton entertained with a card party in honor of Mrs. Hugh Fraser, of Georgetown, S. C., who is her house guest, and Mrs. Ridout and Miss Taylor of Richmond, who are the guests of Miss Lucy Glasgow, at Tuscan Villa. Those present were Mrs. W. H. Gilkison, H. Mapp, H. Trumbower, W. J. Dickinson, Miss Misses Waldrop, of Bowling Green, Ky.; Miss Lewis, Lexington, Ky.; Miss Atkinson, Clifton Forge; Miss Sarah Stevens, Washington, D. C.; Miss Anna Parsons, Pasadena; Miss Georgia Boone, Miss Eleanor and Katharine Paxton. Mrs. Waldrop, of Bowling Green, Ky.; Miss Lewis, of Lexington, Ky.; and Miss Atkinson, of Clifton Forge, have been the guests of Mrs. C. F. Graham for the past week.

Thursday evening a very enjoyable hop was given at the Marlbrook Hotel in honor of the visiting young women. Mrs. Waldrop, of Bowling Green, gave an informal card party in honor of Misses Waldrop, Lewis and Atkinson.

T. J. Dickinson, Miss Ethel Rucker, of Lynchburg; Miss Brown, of Charlottesville; Mrs. Sallie Telfer, of this city; and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Ninger of Roanoke, are on an automobile trip through the Valley. They will visit Staunton, Charlottesville and Washington before they return. Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Key, Frank Key and Miss Evie Bromley are on an automobile trip. They will visit Staunton and Charlottesville, W. Va. Miss Anna Parsons, of Pasadena, who has been the guest of her sister, Mrs. D. R. Miller. Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Vest, who have been spending a couple of weeks in Atlantic City, returned home Monday morning. Mr. H. R. Mills, who has been spending the past two weeks in Annapolis, returned to her home Wednesday.

To the Dyspeptic

and those Suffering from Diseases of the Stomach and Intestines.

When the digestive organs are weakened or impaired one or more (not all) of the following symptoms arise: Coated tongue, lack of appetite, vomiting, intestinal pain, flatulence, burning pains in stomach, headache, acidity, distention, constipation, colic, general depression, aversion to certain foods, dyspepsia, diarrhoea, flatulence, stomach ache. In all such cases relief is at once afforded by

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